“CCATT Nurses’ Deployed Experience”

A study on the roles and dynamics of CCATT nurses in forward deployed locations

Funded by Tri Service Nursing Research Program

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Purpose

To describe CCATT nurses experiential knowledge in the care of patients when in a combat environment.

Purpose

- To distinguish salient features of CCATT nurses' knowledge in a combat setting, and compare that to Critical Care Nursing during pre-war conditions.

Purpose

- To describe the collaborative relationships involved in providing nursing care in a combat environment.

Design

This exploratory, descriptive study will use interpretive phenomenology by means of individual interviews, written narratives, group interviews, participant observation and review of in-flight documentation of care.

Methods

- Using purposive sampling, at least 12 Nurses who deployed with CCATT missions, will be recruited to share their recent experiences.

Data Analysis

- The investigators will identify recurrent themes and patterns of meaning, using verbatim statements which will be used to create items for customized instrument development.

Data Analysis

Data analysis will take place concurrently with data collection which will be transcribed and entered into a qualitative program specifically designed for this study.

Preliminary Results

It’s about the Patient….

- “We try to drop a patient off in better shape than when we picked them up.”

“The patient should remember nothing about the flight.”

“I could see in his eyes that he wanted to know that everything would be OK.”

“This is more blood than you see in an ER.”

It’s About the Team…

“We can read what the other is thinking without saying a word.”

“We transported guys from all services.”

“There’s no rank in the air.”

It’s About My Experience…

“It kind of scared me when we landed and I realized those were tracers out the window during flight.”

“That boy reminded me of my son.”

“It was 34 hours before I got any sleep.”

“I do a lot of praying”

“Being a CCATT is one of the main reasons I am in the Air Force.”

It’s About Needed Changes…

For the Patient…

- Having sufficient supplies & medication.
- Maintaining continuity of care.
- Receiving accurate patient reports prior to transport.
- Decreasing delays in initiating transport.
- Transporting in appropriate aircraft.

For the Team…

- Communication methods that are conducive to care.
- Appreciating experience as well as rank.
- Flexibility in roles.
- Strong clinical skills.

For Me…

- Time to rest and recover.
- Professional development opportunities.
- Creating a non-threatening forum where my concerns can be voiced.
- Having team members that are proficient in their practice.
- A time and place to debrief.